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Pitting little kids against giants for 59 years

MARTLET

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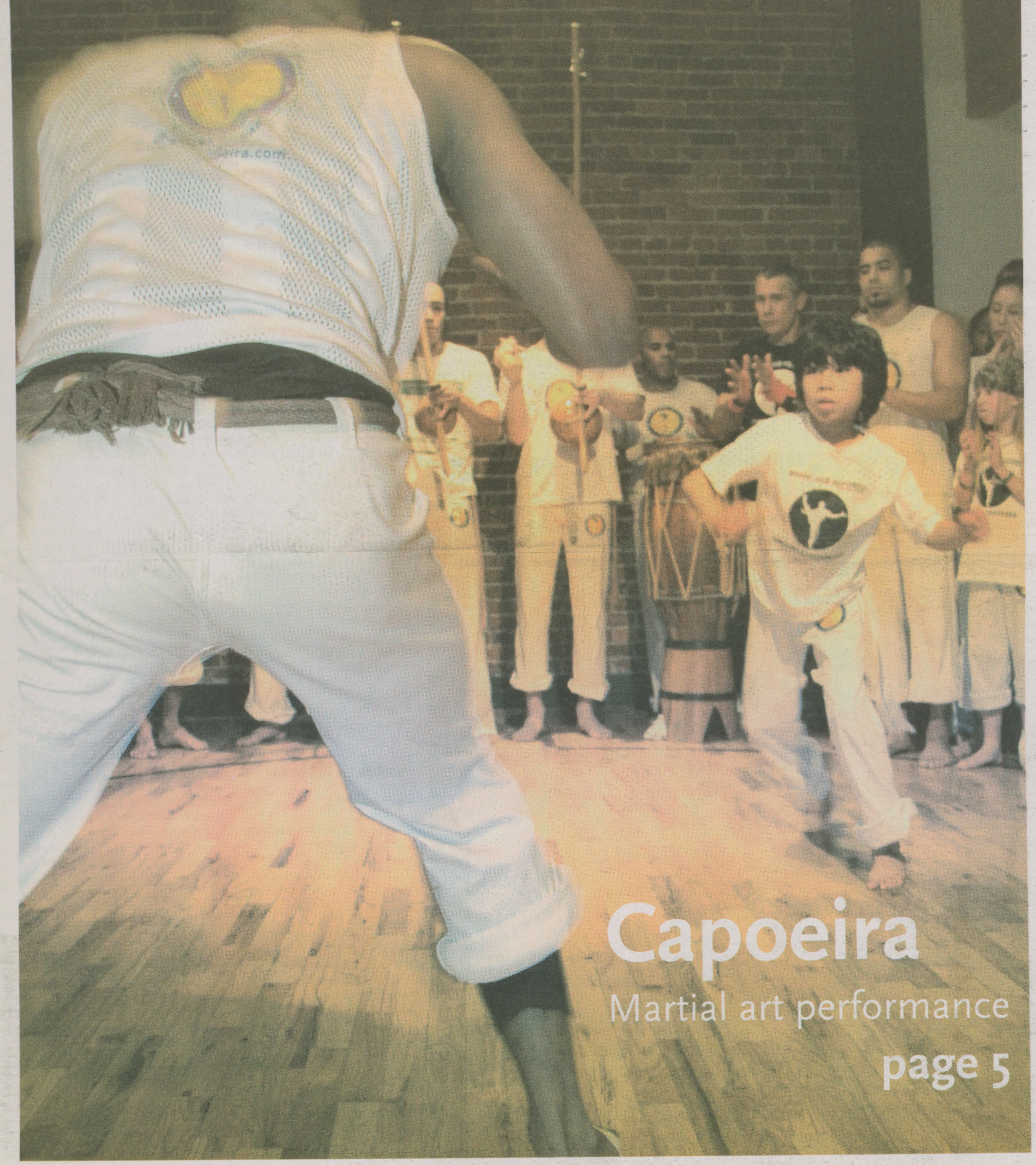

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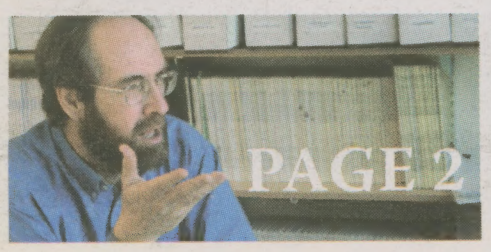
Alcohol studies are flawed



Penny Beames still UVSS chair

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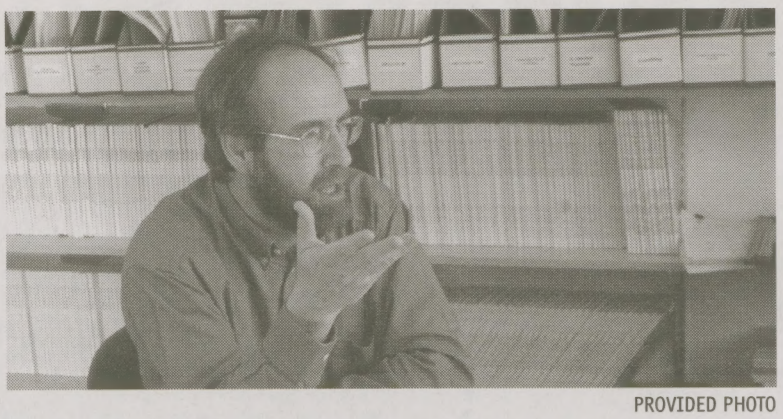
Islamic art show at Maltwood

Alcohol bad in any amount

By Rosie Westwood



PROVIDED PHOTO

Tim Stockwell discovered how harmful drinking really is.

A glass a day keeps the doctor away? Not so, suggests a new report headed in part by UVic's Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia (CARBC).

The report states that moderate alcohol drinking does not help prevent heart disease, refuting thirty years of studies that claim otherwise.

"Our research says that there are way smaller benefits from low-risk drinking and slightly higher costs from elevated-risk drinking," said Tim Stockwell, director of CARBC and one of the principal investigators of the study, as well as a professor of psychology at UVic.

If you're drinking for your health "be cautious," said Stockwell. "Do it in very small doses."

"There's a slight chance it may improve your health, but don't bet on it," he said. "It's unlikely to do any harm."

An international team of researchers from Australia, Canada and the United States reviewed over thirty years of studies showing that light drinkers are less likely to die prematurely than both abstainers and heavy drinkers.

The report, published in the April 2006 issue of *Addiction Research and Theory*, examined 54 studies from around the globe and uncovered a common error in most studies—one that skewed the results and exaggerated the benefits of what Stockwell calls "low-risk," or moderate, drinking.

The past studies' definition of "abstainers" included people who had cut down or quit drinking due to chronic illnesses, declining health, frailty, drug use or disability. This caused the abstaining group to show a higher risk of premature death than moderate drinkers.

Of the seven studies that didn't contain the error, none showed a significant protection from heart disease or other causes of premature death. Canadian low-risk drinking guidelines suggest no more than two drinks a day for men and women, with a weekly total of 14 drinks for men and nine for women.

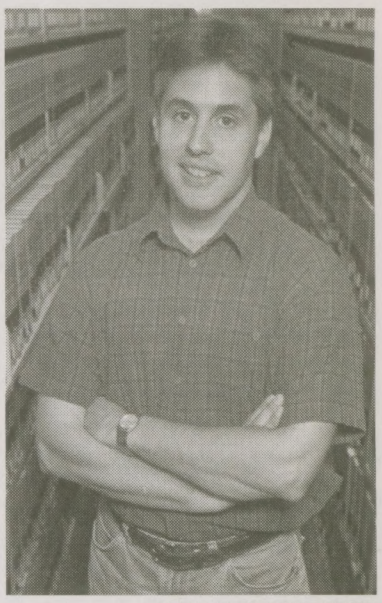
Stockwell said funding for his team's research was difficult to secure because alcohol's role in preventing heart disease was widely accepted.

"Future research has to tackle this problem in a more stringent and careful way," he said.

The team plans on looking beyond coronary heart disease to diabetes, strokes, cancers and a range of studies that claim to show a relationship between those conditions and lifestyle choices. Stockwell said there might be similar problems in those reports as well.

UVic aboriginal scholar awarded $225,000

By Alex Gillett



DIANA NETHERCOTT PHOTO

Award winner John Borrows.

John Borrows, a UVic law professor and leading scholar in the field of indigenous legal traditions, has been awarded a $225,000 Trudeau Foundation Fellowship.

The prize is one of the largest monetary awards in the social sciences and humanities in Canada. Borrows will receive $150,000 in prize money over three years and $25,000 annually for travel and networking expenses during that time.

"Our own legal traditions as indigenous people do not often receive appropriate attention, yet they can provide solid answers to many of the disputes we encounter," said Borrows, who is Anishinabe and a member of the Chippewas of the Nawash Reserve.

Borrows, currently lecturing in New Zealand, said he would like to apply his prize money to developing education in indigenous law and legal traditions.

"I think I [will] use the travel and research money to bring more people into the discussion about the value of indigenous law in contemporary disputes," said Borrows. "I would like to create dialogue with Elders, indigenous leaders, interested community members, students and academics on the subject."

The Trudeau Foundation, founded in 2002, supports research in four areas: human rights and social justice, responsible citizenship, Canada and the world, and humans and their natural environment—themes that influenced the life of Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

Stephen Toope, president of the foundation, said they considered hundreds of nominees before choosing Borrows as one of the five recipients this year. The foundation looks for a combination of outstanding academic achievement, creativity and a desire to engage in a public dialogue.

"What made us really excited about John as a potential Trudeau fellow is that he's already shown a remarkable ability to communicate to a really wide variety of audiences," said Toope. "He is one of the most creative scholars dealing with aboriginal issues in Canada, and, indeed, the world."

Toope stresses that the Trudeau fellowship is more than just a monetary award. Each winner becomes a fellow of the foundation for three years. According to Toope, this creates an "interdisciplinary network of people interested in big issues of public policy."

The foundation seeks nominations for fellows on an ongoing basis from university presidents and external advisors. The recipients are unaware they are even being considered until they are informed of winning.

"The Trudeau Fellows Programme recognizes and communicates connections between issues of local and international importance," said Borrows. "And it is a deep honour for me to join the foundation in working towards these ends."

Website makes history hip

By Mike Berry

The Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History project unveiled three new enigmas at the Royal B.C. Museum. This brings the total number of historical events explored by the world-renowned website to six.

The new mysteries continue the site's tradition of using single events to examine larger themes in history, such as religious intolerance, immigration and caregiving in pre-welfare state Canada.

One of the new mysteries, "Torture and the Truth: Angélique and the Burning of Montreal," allows users to explore the burning of Montreal in 1734, and the subsequent accusation of a black slave.

The other additions are "Heaven and Hell on Earth: The Massacre of the Black Donnellys" and "Explosion on the Kettle Valley Line: The Death of Peter Verigin."

The site was created by John Lutz, a professor of history at UVic, and Ruth Sandwell, a professor at the University of Toronto. The goal was to show how interesting Canadian history is—an important feat for a site whose target users are high school students across North America.

"It's a good way to get students to practise history," said Lutz. "Students have to look at contradictory evidence and consider which to give more validity to. They have to use more critical thinking skills."

It began at a conference on B.C. history when the two professors were trying, according to Lutz, to "subvert the usual talking head approach" for their presentation. Their solution was like a murder-mystery dinner, with guests reading documents from the past to attempt to solve the puzzle.

Lutz's and Sandwell's novel approach was a success and they soon put their idea online. The project, created in 1997, has since garnered the interest of 12 countries considering modelling a site after Canadian Mysteries.

The project is sponsored by the Department of Canadian Heritage and has won two major international awards, one for best education site and the other for best history resource on the Net.

The project plans to add more mysteries but is waiting to receive word on funding from Heritage Canada. Lutz said there is some concern whether the new Conservative government will continue the level of funding the project has received in the past.

Visit www.canadianmysteries.ca

UVSS chair position finally declared

By Norman Ed Baskerville

Nearly two months after students voted in the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) elections, incumbent Penny Beames has been declared chairperson of the 2006/2007 board of directors.

It took several heated board meetings, eight director resignations and an attempt to file an injunction with the BC Supreme Court for the election contention to end.

With the appeals and complaints process finally exhausted, the position of UVSS chair was confirmed after candidate Mike Waters was disqualified for the second time on April 25. Beames' results were tallied and ratified on April 27. She was declared the winner over both candidate Chadi Akouri and Waters, whose vote total will remain uncounted.

"I've never had an easy time running for election, but this was more drama than I'm accustomed to," said Beames.

The drama began on March 10 when Ben Johnson, the chief electoral officer, disqualified both Beames and Waters.

Beames was disqualified for campaigning too close to a polling station on election day, and Waters for campaigning alongside Access UVic General Director Orion Carrier, which Johnson ruled was a third-party endorsement, prohibited under UVSS election rules.

Throughout the process, Waters has maintained that since no one at Access UVic officially supported his candidacy, he did not violate third-party endorsement rules as defined in section B.4 of the UVSS electoral policy.

"It's as likely that I had third-party endorsement from the Engineering Students Society as I did Access UVic, if that's how they define it," said Waters who is an engineering student.

However, according to Johnson, witnesses said neither Waters nor Carrier indicated Carrier was speaking unofficially. This led students to believe he was speaking on behalf of Access UVic or that Access UVic was supporting Waters. Witnesses also said that Waters was introduced to them as Access UVic's representative to the UVSS board, alluding to a third-party endorsement.

Johnson also ruled that Waters was party to slander because he campaigned alongside someone, Carrier, who was slandering the UVSS board and its members.

Johnson's decision to disqualify both Waters and Beames was overturned March 20 by the UVSS electoral committee and upheld by the board—bringing both candidates back in the running for chair.

On March 28 the board voted against an appeal Beames made to reverse the decision that reinstated Waters.

Johnson stated that after the board's decision to uphold the ruling of the Electoral Committee and reinstate both candidates, Beames' lawyer appealed. Waters' lawyer attempted, unsuccessfully, to file a Supreme Court injunction to stop the board from revisiting their decision to reinstate Waters.

Beames said this year's election demonstrated that UVSS policies and bylaws were constructed by students for students, not necessarily for a court of law.

"I don't think there's anything that could be done to solidly prevent this from happening again," said Beames. "There are steps that could be taken to make it easier to deal with these situations, but there are so many contingencies that you can't plan for."

Waters said that he would like the electoral policy to have a more concrete and detailed explanation of what constitutes grounds for disqualification, as well as an overhaul of the appeal process.

Despite the complication, Johnson said, "the electoral process is definitely a working one, but in light of this year's events, the Electoral Policy Manual (EPM) needs to be seriously revamped in order to prevent such events from happening again."

In his extensive policy recommendations in the 2006 Electoral Report, Johnson advises that the "dysfunctional" appeals process be amended to prevent conflicts of interest. Presently, at both levels of appeal, the electoral committee and the board, nearly everybody involved in decision-making has a political stake in whether a candidate is disqualified or not. Johnson recommends that a group of non-partisan individuals who either have an in-depth knowledge of the EPM or who are legal experts be appointed to make decisions on appeals.

Beames has been active in student politics since 2004/2005. In her second term as chair, this year she plans to continue to negotiate with the Ministry of Advanced Education to reduce tuition fees. Beames said she will also be working to try to reduce the high fees students pay to UVic co-op programs and will try to increase summer services for students.

STEVEN MASUCH PHOTO

Penny Beames in her second term chair of UVSS board.

UVSS innocent of violating human rights

By Bryna Hallam

With the start of the new academic year and the release of a human rights report, the students' society and the advocacy group for students with disabilities are looking to put a year's worth of conflict behind them.

The university's equity and human rights office issued a report on the conflict between the two groups in March, nearly eight months after Access UVic, an advocacy group for students with disabilities, filed a harassment complaint against Shamus Reid, then the director of finance, and Marne Jenson, general manager of the Student Union Building.

In the report, university equity officer Cindy Player found that there was no harassment or discrimination on the part of Reid and Jenson.

Player assigned no direct blame for the conflict between the two groups and instead recommended ways for the UVSS to support Access, and for the groups to work together.

Rose Mariana Robb, the director of Access UVic, said despite concerns about the report—including what she said was the use of a different definition of harassment than was earlier agreed on—she hopes the recommendations are implemented.

"We're not satisfied with all the conclusions in the report," she said, "but think that if the recommendations are followed, it will go a long way toward heading off similar distressing events in the future." Robb added the group does not foresee any further problems with the UVSS.

"There's an opportunity for the students' society to lead universities in Canada in terms of supporting disabled students," she said. "The door's wide open now—I hope the new board of directors steps through."

Leading the 2006–07 board is Penny Beames, re-elected to a second year as chair. Beames had been criticized during the year for her board's actions regarding Access UVic and what its members characterized as a lack of support for students with disabilities.

But Beames is looking to the year ahead too.

"I think it's important at this point to focus on the future," she said. The board is looking at sensitivity training and will decide what other, if any, steps need to be taken.

"We as a board accepted Cindy Player's report, and accepted the recommendations along with that report," she said, adding that she considers the report to be "closure on the matter."

Despite the challenges they faced this year—according to Robb, a number of Access members left the university due to the stress caused by the conflict—the group has achieved a great deal.

Access has worked with the Learning and Teaching Centre on making classrooms inclusive and accommodating, offered a series of sign language classes and forged links with off-campus disability organizations.

"There is the potential," said Robb, "for UVic to become the university of choice for people with disabilities."

Editorial

Stockwell Day plays spy-game

You've seen him as a pastor, you've ogled him in a wet suit, and who could forget his brief role as leader of the short-lived Canadian Alliance party? We've been eagerly waiting to see what Stockwell Day has in store for us next ... well wait no longer. Introducing Stockwell Bond—I mean Day—in Pay Another Day.

As the new public safety minister, Day has recently announced that Canada should spend as much money necessary to create an international spy agency. It might cost tens of millions of dollars to do it, but that's all right with Day.

All the government needs to do now is figure out how to do it.

Option one: Expand the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).
Option two: Create a new spy agency that monitors threats to domestic security internationally.
Not an option: Increase spending on post-secondary institutions, public healthcare, infrastructure and urban development.

Right now CSIS focuses on what's going on within the country, while our foreign intelligence is gathered from U.S. and British reports.

It seems that Day has been scared into action by the release of a November 2005 CSIS report just made public that said it is "probable" that an al-Qaeda attack could occur within Canada.

No need to worry, Day is determined to save the ... uh ... day.

Never mind that the billions of dollars the Americans and British put into their intelligence agencies couldn't prevent them from attacks. (By the way, U.S. intelligence spending is now up to about $40 billion annually.)

Never mind that President Bush's approval ratings have dropped below 30 per cent (only three other presidents have managed that one), after news surfaced that his spy-happy administration has been "trolling" through domestic phone calls for any unusual patterns. So, if you live in the States and have been calling your granny in Iran (Iraq is *so* last year), watch out.

Forget the Kelowna Accord (we know Harper has), say buh-bye to education (it's overpriced and overrated) and don't even think of additional spending on health care.

Here's how it will break down. All our resources will be put into an international spy agency monitoring threats to Canada throughout the world.

This agency will probably have little success in preventing a terrorist attack.

But, if such an attack does happen, we will have even less cash around to help us pick up the pieces.

The thing is, we already have international intelligence—it's just outsourced. There's no need to create an entirely new, expensive toy for Harper and Day to play with and show off to their friends.

Besides that, if someone, anyone, really wanted to harm us (and who could blame them with our "We're too nice for anyone to hate us" attitude?) they'd figure out a way to do it. No amount of spending or revamping of agencies can guarantee protection.

Federal budget baffles

Lowering taxes and promising surplus doesn't add up

by Kim Armstrong

The first thing I learned when I tried to look into the new Conservative budget was that they really didn't want me to.

I admit that I'm not an accountant. Even so, the financial plans of Canada's current ruling party shouldn't be as unclear as they are. The average voter has the right, and if not that, then certainly the desire, to know what actually happens to their tax dollars.

But they've got about as much chance of getting a cohesive picture of the country's fiscal future from the 315 page document posted on the party's official website as they have of attending an Elvis concert. Opening act: John Lennon.

Because I'm a student attending university, I might be considered more intelligent than the average voter. Because I've spent the past year with an overfull course load taken at two separate institutions—not my best idea—I might be considered a little dim. Either way, I'm baffled.

Oddly enough, this seems to be a common phenomenon.

Since our minister of finance, Jim Flaherty, presented the latest Conservative gem on May 2, I have talked to numerous people about their opinions on the budget. Accusing the government of everything from raising income taxes in the lowest tax bracket to abandoning the Kelowna Accord, my fellow Canadians are flapping a whole lot of lip and shooting a whole lot of innocent breeze. All opinions were passionate, most were unfavourable and most, according to the party's official website, were wrong to varying degrees.

On the fiscal side, this much ambiguity is strange to me, but politically it makes perfect sense. The less people know, the less they can complain, eh? It's a fine old democratic tradition.

I don't deny that there is more bull in the Conservative's financial manifesto than there is in a dairy cow's favourite fantasy, but on paper it sure looks grand.

There's something I'm missing, though. There has to be. A budget that endeavours to lower taxes, raise credits and generally give everyone more money can't also promise a large surplus without something, somewhere that's seriously sneaky.

I didn't notice anything too sneaky myself, but I did discover some strange things. Take the limit on the amount of money you can earn without paying personal income tax. It's being raised for 2005. Good. It's being raised again, for 2006. Better. Halfway through the year it's going back down. Bugger. Then up it goes again for 2007—a pattern that repeats across many sections of the budget. It's a fantastic financial rollercoaster that, despite some unexpected loops, presents the promise of a very popular ride.

Our benevolent leader hasn't forgotten us future generations of hardened politicians either. Between a textbook tax credit and upping the amount of scholarships and bursaries a student can receive when enrolled in a program that provides "skills leading to an occupation," students seem to be on the receiving end of some good karma.

However, the textbook credit works out to about $80 for a full-time student—more than the cost of a cup of coffee, but less than the cost of a single textbook.

I also wonder what programs the government will deem conducive to skills in an occupation and what careers will be worthy of the "occupation" title.

Can anyone say, "Goodbye, fine arts degrees?" Okay, maybe I wouldn't blame them for that point of view, but I still think students deserve the choice. A scholarship is a scholarship. Once it's given, isn't it up to a student to decide what to do with it? Since details aren't laid out, at least anywhere that I could find them, it's very hard to say what all these promises mean.

This was supposed to be an article about how the new budget will affect students' lives, and *I tried, I* really did. I just don't have the answer.

Officialese and political gloss sound good on the page, but the Conservatives give no clear picture of how things will play out in reality.

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Capoeira

Where martial arts meets fine art

By Benjamin Moore

The windows of Studio 4 Athletics on Yates Street are dripping with moisture, the accumulated perspiration of more than 50 capoeiristas who are here tonight to train together. They've formed a circle in the centre of the room and the *roda* is about to begin.

This is when students of capoeira put their training to use in a game of feigned strikes and gravity-defying acrobatics.

It could easily be mistaken for a dance—drums thump out a rhythm while two capoeiristas maintain eye contact as they take turns displaying their prowess. From the speed of their movements, you can tell that a single blow would be devastating, and by the look of concentration on their faces, you can tell that they're serious about their art.

As the tempo picks up, the group claps in time and, in Portuguese, sings of past capoeira masters and of the game itself. Members of the audience join in—excited to witness a tradition that has remained unchanged for over five centuries, since its creation by African slaves in Brazil.

Capoeira, pronounced *cap-o-eh-ra*, was first brought to the U.S. in the early '70s by two *mestres* (masters) from Brazil. It crossed the border two decades later, and has been growing in popularity ever since, with over 50 schools across Canada. Axé Capoeira is Victoria's only capoeira academy, with students ranging in age from four to 48, and is run out of Studio 4 Athletics by Kevin Brett. After 12 years of training, Brett, 37, has earned his instructor's belt, the seventh of 12, and moves about the room with an air of authority.

Brett began his training in Vancouver, motivated by restlessness but also attracted to capoeira's multi-faceted approach. While other martial arts focus on combat techniques, a capoeirista will study Portuguese, self defence, music, acrobatics and history, along with traditional Brazilian dances and folklore. A student is encouraged to pursue every discipline, but will often gravitate toward one or two that he or she finds most satisfying. Brett believes the abundance of options is the reason behind capoeira's steady increase in popularity, something he's witnessed firsthand. Since Axé Capoeira first officially opened its doors in 2001, student numbers have risen from 15 to over 100.

BENJAMIN MOORE PHOTO

Capoeira masters face one another during a *roda* at Axé Capoeira's Yates Street studio.

"Capoeira cultivates a genuine feeling of community," he says. "It fills the empty space a lot of people have." This void is something Brett feels comes from a lack of cultural identity experienced by many Canadians.

"It leaves a lot of people searching, and capoeira is definitely a powerful tool they can use to fulfil that need."

Nicholas Sebunyana is among those at tonight's practice, though a recent injury to his ankle has confined him to the sidelines. He's a tall, barrel-chested man who dwarfs everyone around him.

"We're like a family," he says, smiling as he looks about the room. Sebunyana began his training eight years ago and has earned his fourth belt, which lets him teach classes while training at the academy. Like Brett, Sebunyana was attracted to capoeira's diversity, but was also looking for a way to turn his life around. He was 100 pounds overweight, depressed and insecure. But as time passed he watched his weight drop, self-esteem climb and found a sense of belonging with the group he'd never experienced before.

But that isn't to say it's always been easy for him, or that every student will experience the same results. Sebunyana's success comes from a rigorously healthy lifestyle, something the group encourages all its students to maintain, and over 20 hours at the school every week.

"I want to one day open my own academy," says Sebunyana. "I want to learn every aspect of capoeira and make a life out of it, so I have to put a huge amount of myself into it. This is what I love."

As the *roda* continues, several capoeiristas break away from the group to towel the sweat from their bodies and drain the last of their bottled water. Among them is Gabriella Tschanz.

"It's exhausting, but it's fun," she says, smiling and taking a seat by the window. "Capoeira hooks you. It's addictive." Tschanz, 19, has earned her first belt with Axé over the past year and trains with the group at least twice a week. She says that being a female in a male-dominated sport has its challenges, but so far they're the right kind of challenges. With no concessions made by instructors because of her sex, she faces the same struggle as the men, but without their build. It's equality whether she wants it or not, and while it can be frustrating, the rewards for perseverance are worth it.

"I don't know if capoeira would actually help in the scenario of getting attacked," she says, "but I think the confidence makes you carry yourself in a way that's less likely to be looked at as prey."

As Tschanz steps back into the *roda*, the pace of the drums quickens. Some of the more eager capoeiristas push their way to the musicians to wait for their turn in the centre. Others clap and sing with an enthusiasm hard to ignore. At one of the drums stands Brett, a look of pride on his face as he surveys a room packed with the students he's come to consider family, watching them move to the rhythm in his hands.

Capoeira Quick Hits

- Capoeira was started in Brazil by African slaves over 500 years ago.
- It is often mistaken for a kind of dance because of its base movement, the *ginga*. *Ginga* is Portuguese for "rocking back and forth." When capoeira was first developed, slaves used the ginga to disguise it from their owners.
- Capoeiristas wore razor blades on their feet, which is why kicks and spins are important in a fighter's repertoire.
- The berimbau is a single-stringed instrument made of a gourd and a piece of wood. In the *roda*, the speed of the berimbau tells fighters what kind of game to play.
- The exact history of capoeira is uncertain because all of the documents about it were destroyed in 1888 when slavery in Brazil was abolished.
- The first capoeira school was opened in Brazil in 1937—prior to that time, it was outlawed.
- Communication between fighters is one of the most important aspects. Fighters in the roda attempt to maintain eye contact at all times.

BENJAMIN MOORE PHOTO

Students play traditional instruments while others perform.

BENJAMIN MOORE PHOTO

Students dance in Brazilian costumes.

Contemporary Islamic art exhibit at Maltwood

by Angela Andersen

Sherazad Jamal is exhibiting her paintings for the first time, and they are still incomplete. Her own process of understanding the message conveyed through her work continues even as her series hangs on the gallery wall.

The Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery hosts *Seeker, Sentry, Sage: Shades of Islam in Contemporary Art* from May 11 to June 19. This vibrant exhibit gathers the work of 15 artists who currently live and work in British Columbia.

The grain of sand around which the pearl of the exhibit is formed from the idea that the artists either come many parts of the Islamic world—with backgrounds from Ugandan to Afghan, Indian to Canadian—they have approached religion as both an overt and an inherent aspect of their art. Or the artitst have incorporated knowledge and practice of Islamic teachings into their creative processes.

The pearl continues to grow and gain polish as the artists gather and arrive at an organic symbiosis that puts their contemporary lives and the influence of the teachings of Islam into simultaneous focus.

A symposium on May 13 gave exhibit artists the opportunity to speak about their work and their approach to the creative process. While discussion highlighted their varied life experiences, languages, and cultural backgrounds, the artists individually drew attention to common themes. These included nature as a source of spiritual solace and renewal, a striving for unity and pairing, recognition of similarities between traditional patterning used in Islamic art and techniques of abstraction in contemporary art, and the idea that the process of creating art is as important as what is being created.

Amir Ali Alibhai delves into the civic role of art, especially large, temporary creations he calls "Earthprayers." These intricate and graceful lotus-shaped patterns incorporate dyed rice, flower petals, sand, stones, cedar bark and other materials from nature that are traditionally presented as offerings in South Asian and Northwest Coast spiritual practices. Alibhai orchestrated "Rangoli Floor Installation Earthprayer #7" but participation by gallery visitors, including his children, other exhibit artists and the public, was encouraged for its completion. Of this process, he said, "Things get blurry and it's an interesting, messy place to be, on the margin."

The kinetic forces of politics and war have pushed and pulled the artists from their birthplaces into Canadian society. British Columbia can become home, but not without a process of struggle.

Najat Zakhour, originally from Syria, works with oil and canvas. She writes in her artist's statement, "For me, painting is a process during which I empty my thoughts and feelings onto the canvas." Rozita Moini-Shirazi, a photographic installation artist who left Iran in 1984 following the 1979 revolution, communicates her sense of "isolation from people in a populated environment."

"You think it's just a metaphor, but really it's a powerful process," said Leslie Stanick, of the relationship between creating her art and the practice of Sufism.

The Sufi tradition is often described as a "mystical" interpretation of Islam, but it is essentially a process of inward reflection as a path to ultimate unity with the divine. Stanick calls her photographic digital prints, inspired by the poetry of Sufi teacher Rumi, "light paintings."

Farukh Khadri, a multi-lingual artist who was born in Afghanistan, creates works of Arabic calligraphy with a woodcutting technique called *shabakah*. Each curving letter is painstakingly sawn, creating fluidity from a hard substance. He is perhaps one of the few who does not value the process over his work in its completed form. Of the intricate process, he said, "It is when it is finished that I am pleased with it."

ANGELA ANDERSEN PHOTO

***Seeker, Sentry, Sage* shows works inspired by Islam , including "Cave Dweller," in the foreground.**

Astri Wright has organized Seeker, Sentry, Sage *and a related series of free films on Thursday evenings. Contact Wright at astri@finearts.uvic.ca for a screening schedule and details.*

MOVIES | SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS

Will this year's summer flicks compare to retro classics?

by Matt Grady

Blockbuster season has begun. Looking for relief from the heat, crowds will flock to air-conditioned theatres, grab a bladder-bursting drink and butter-drenched popcorn, and bask in on-screen explosions.

On the menu for summer 2006 are *Mission: Impossible III, The Da Vinci Code, Poseidon, X3, Superman Returns* and *Pirates of the Caribbean 2*.

Take a look at past years' box-office champs (grosses, in U.S. funds, have been adjusted for inflation) to see what came out on top. Check your brain here and prepare to be immersed in a feast of all-star casts, car chases, choreographed fights, jaw-dropping visual effects, surround sound and general mayhem.

Jaws (1975)

Spielberg's film starring Richard Dreyfuss became Hollywood's first summer blockbuster. *Jaws* does for ocean swimming what *Psycho* did for motel showering. John Williams' tense, crescendoing score coupled with the Shark Cam as it closes in on hapless victims makes for a terrifying experience.

Academy Awards: Three: film editing, original score and sound
Gross: $819 million
Trivia: The plausibility of *Jaws*' explosive end was debunked on a recent episode of *MythBusters*

Star Wars (1977)

The ultimate blockbuster film, with nary a Jar Jar in sight. A space fantasy with roots in mythology, westerns and Saturday matinee serials. Add explosive space battles and a John Williams score, and you have a movie that ran in theatres for over a year.

Academy Awards: Six: art direction/set decoration, costume design, visual effects, film editing, original score and sound
Gross: $865 million
Trivia: Christopher Walkin and Al Pacino were allegedly considered for the role of Han Solo

Ghostbusters (1984)

A team of *Saturday Night Live* and *SCTV* alumni (Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Rick Moranis) posing as bumbling ghost hunters who must save New York from a Godzilla-sized Marshmallow Man.

Academy Awards: None, but nominated for visual effects and original song
Gross: $436 million
Trivia: Huey Lewis and the News turned down an offer to write and record the theme song.

Back to the Future (1985)

Fleeing terrorists, Michael J. Fox travels back to 1955 DeLorean. When his teenage mother develops a crush on him, his entire existence is threatened. That is, unless he can set her up with his dorky teenage father before returning to 1985.

Academy Awards: One: sound effects
Gross: $377 million
Trivia: Corey "I Wear My Sunglasses At Night" Hart was asked to do a screen test for the role of Marty.

Top Gun (1986)

A hotshot fighter pilot (Tom Cruise) learns discipline from his superiors, and how to open his heart from his female instructor. Cue jump cuts of F-14 flybys and dogfights with a theatre-shaking rock score, and you've got yourself a Bruckheimer production. The big winner: your local Air Force recruiter.

Academy Awards: One: original song ("Take My Breath Away")
Gross: $304 million
Trivia: Bryan Adams declined an offer for his song "Only the Strong Survive" to appear on the soundtrack because he felt the film glorified war.

Batman (1989)

Memories of Adam West in tights duking it out with colourful, campy villains are laid to rest in Tim Burton's gothic vision of Gotham City and the Caped Crusader. Jack Nicholson steals the show as the sinister, maniacal Joker. Excellent companion piece to *Batman Begins*.

Academy Awards: One: art direction/set decoration
Gross: $402 million
Trivia: In an earlier version of the script, the Flying Graysons, a family of trapeze artists, perform in the Joker's parade. Dick Grayson later becomes Robin.

Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)

A cyborg is sent back in time to protect the future leader of humanity against a shape-shifting robot with an affinity for stabbing weapons. It's Arnie's shining moment.

Academy Awards: Four: visual effects, sound effects, make-up and sound
Gross: $311 million
Trivia: The film held the world record for highest opening-weekend gross of an R-rated film until *The Matrix Reloaded*.

Independence Day (1996)

A laughable B-movie infused with a $75-million budget. Only in Hollywood can you teach a biplane pilot (Will Smith) to fly an F-18 fighter jet in a matter of hours. Play compare/contrast with *War of the Worlds*.

Academy Awards: One: visual effects
Gross: $443 million
Trivia: In the original ending, Randy Quaid's character flies his crop duster, fitted with a missile, into the alien ship.

Men in Black (1997)

Will Smith keeps Earth's galactic immigrant population in check with one-liners and shiny weapons, with the help of straight-faced Tommy Lee Jones.

Academy Awards: One: make-up
Gross: $349 million
Trivia: David Schwimmer and Clint Eastwood were offered the roles of Agents J and K before Will and Tommy.

we ♥ movies
all summer long!

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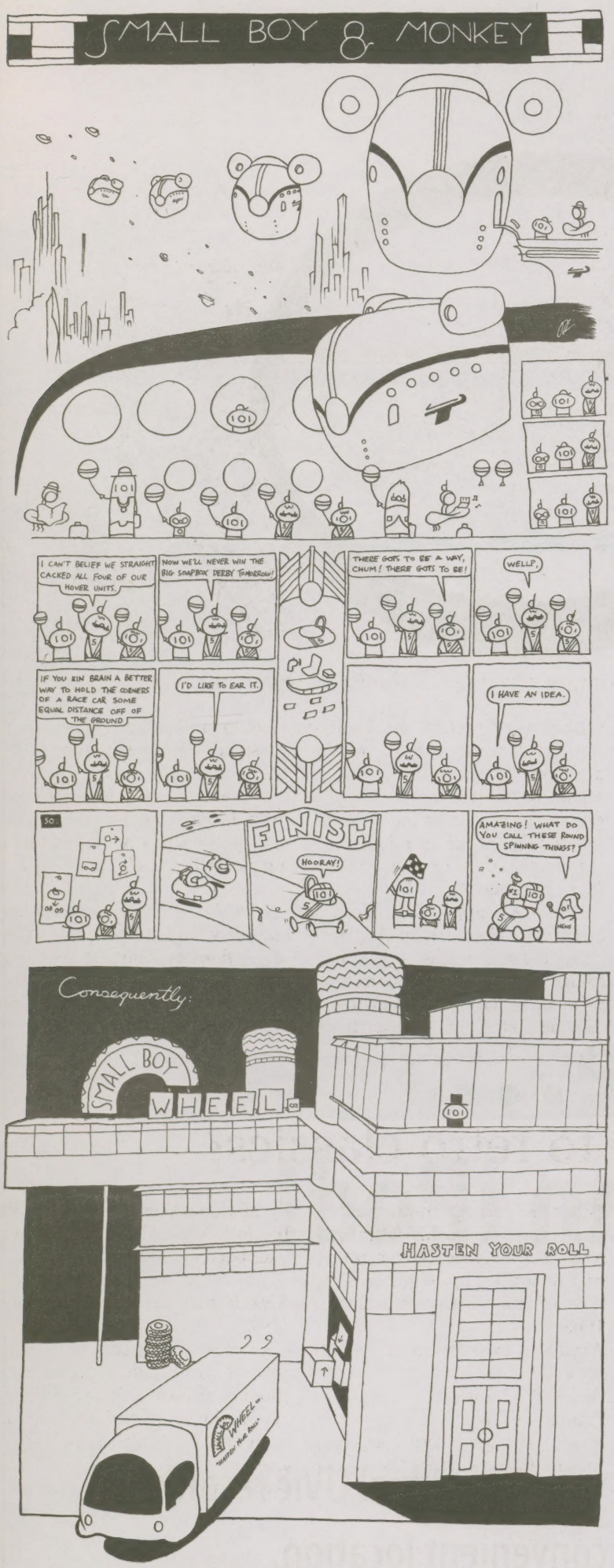
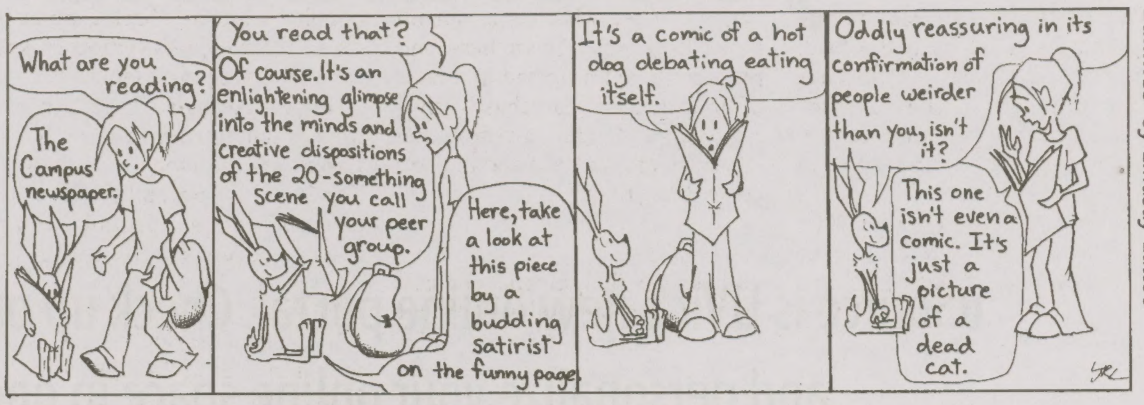

SMALL BOY & MONKEY
I CAN'T BELIEF WE STRAIGHT CACKED ALL FOUR OF OUR HOVER UNITS.
NOW WE'LL NEVER WIN THE BIG SOAPBOX DERBY TOMORROW!
THERE GOTS TO BE A WAY, CHUM! THERE GOTS TO BE!
WELLP,
IF YOU KIN BRAIN A BETTER WAY TO HOLD THE CORNERS OF A RACE CAR SOME EQUAL DISTANCE OFF OF THE GROUND
I'D LIKE TO EAR IT.
I HAVE AN IDEA.
FINISH
HOORAY!
AMAZING! WHAT DO YOU CALL THESE ROUND SPINNING THINGS?
Consequently:
SMALL BOY WHEEL CO.
HASTEN YOUR ROLL

SAM & FUZZY
©2006 BY SAM LOGAN.
WORK TOWARDS THE SMALL... DON'T ASSUME FAILURE...
SO, UH... WOULD YOU MAYBE LIKE TO GO OUT FOR DINNER SOMETIME?
OF COURSE! I WAS STARTING TO THINK YOU'D NEVER ACTUALLY ASK.
YOU... YOU KNEW I WANTED TO?
SURE. THE OTHERS TOLD ME.
THEY WHAT?
THEY TOLD ME! ACTUALLY, THEY HAD A LITTLE BET GOING ABOUT HOW LONG YOU'D TAKE TO ASK.
THEY WHAT?!?
NOW LET'S SEE... FUZZY GUESSED THE EARLIEST, SO HE MUST HAVE WON. BUT I THINK ALEXA FIGURED YOU'D TAKE ANOTHER TWO MONTHS.
THUD!
TWO MONTHS?!? YOU WERE THE ONE ENCOURAGING ME TO ASK HER!
YOU SURE PICKED AN EXPENSIVE TIME TO START LISTENING TO ME.
HOORAY FOR PERSONAL GROWTH!
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM


What are you reading?
The Campus newspaper.
You read that?
Of course. It's an enlightening glimpse into the minds and creative dispositions of the 20-something scene you call your peer group.
Here, take a look at this piece by a budding satirist on the funny page.
It's a comic of a hot dog debating eating itself.
Oddly reassuring in its confirmation of people weirder than you, isn't it?
This one isn't even a comic. It's just a picture of a dead cat.
Bunnies by Lindsay Laltoo

Classifieds

maned@martlet.ca

HELP WANTED

CIGARETTE SMOKERS Ages 20-54 Required for Market Research Focus Groups $$ paid if selected. Call 604-640-0658.

FOR HIRE

House-sitter available. Need someone to look after your house and plants while you're away? I am an employed professional from the Kootenay region of B.C. and am interested in house-sitting while taking courses at the University of Victoria this July. References available. Contact: 250 359 5983 or paragon@netidea.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

SAILING. Support your community and get a great tan as summer volunteer for the Disabled Sailing Association, Victoria Branch. Become a powerboat driver or a companion sailor to people with disabilities. Tuesday through Saturday beginning June 8. Experience is not needed, but preferred. Training provided. Call Recreation Integration Victoria at 477-6314 ext 14 or email dsa@rivonline.org for more information.

ACCOMODATIONS WANTED

Do you have a sublet available for June and July to rent to a senior gentleman? Call 1-949-770-4972 until the end of May and 480-0466 in June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OAK BAY GRAD '96 TEN-YEAR REUNION Sat., June 10, 2006. UVic Grad Centre, 3800 Finnerty Road (across from the Bus Loop). Doors open @ 6 p.m., BBQ buffet @ 7 p.m. Entertainment to follow. Tickets: $15 per person. Please RSVP to oakbaygrad96@gmail.com or phone Oak Bay High School at 598-3361. "MEET EACH OTHER AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME."

Support the fight against liver disease! Come out for our annual **Stroll For Liver WALK/RUN** on **Sunday, June 4 in Elk/Beaver Lake Park**. Chose between the 5km or 10km route. To register please call: **1-800-856-7266.**

Adoption-Separation/Search/Reunion Support for Natural Mothers. May 21st, 7-9 p.m., Emily Carr Library (3500 Blanshard St.) All mothers separated from children by adoption, adoptees and family welcome. More info. at www.originscanada.org

Esquimalt Military Family Resource Centre AGM, June 15, 2006, 6:30 p.m. in the NOTC Gunroom. Want to get involved in your local MFRC? Then join us at our AGM. For more information, call us at 363-2640 or toll free at 1-800-353-3329.

ON CAMPUS

THE NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP MAY MEETING. Guest Speaker Ted Lea has been involved with ecosystem mapping for over 25 years and now works with BC's recovery planning for plant species at risk. Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 7 p.m.. UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-116. Non member drop-in fee: $2. For more info contact 595-5820.

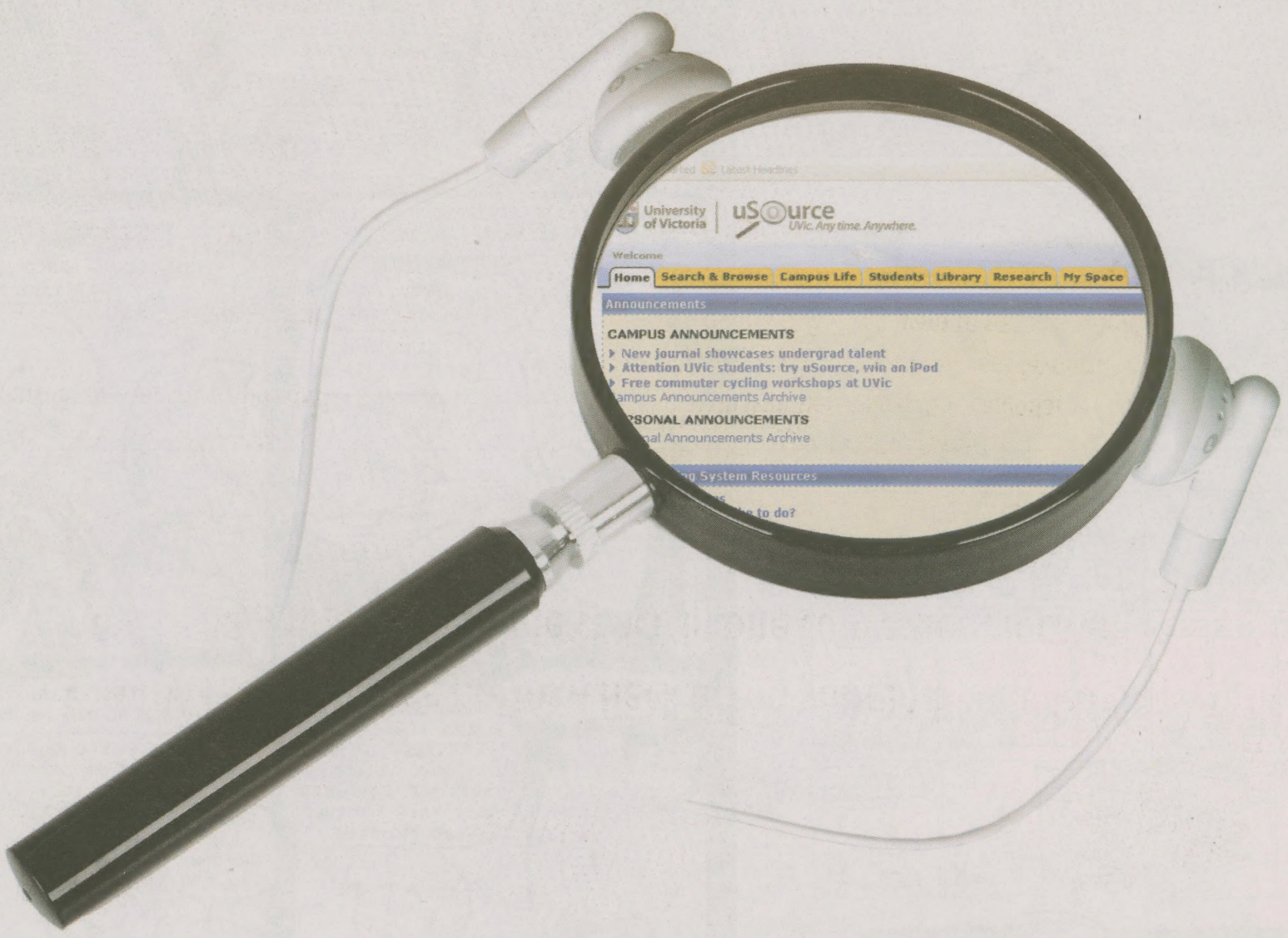
The University of Victoria's Society for Indian Classical Arts (SICA) is pleased to present an evening of Indian (Carnatic) Classical Music. The event will take place at the University of Victoria's Harry Hickman Building (Room HHB105) on Sunday May 21st at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are (adults-$10.00, Students-$5.00, kids under 13-FREE). Tickets available at Munro's Book Store or at the door. For more information please contact Sri at (250) 721-2672.

HEY YOU

Hey Deliah, spray some weed killer on your bush, or wash it, trim it ... do something to keep your garden from making my tree itch.

Deano, I'll see you next at the barn burner. Thanks for everything. Oh, and it's all good about the car.

Come read the Telegraph at http://www.electricmilk.com. You can even contribute content and join in the fun, fun times. Those fun times are everywhere, if you want.



use uSource…
you could win an iPod!

uSource is UVic's new online portal. Check up on your individual UVic records and personalize your online space in one convenient location.

Important stuff:

- Register online for classes
- See a snapshot of your student records
- Manage tuition fees
- Get reminders of important academic dates
- Check your library account
- Check your UVic email
- Use Group Studio to share files and messages with classmates and campus groups

Fun stuff:

- Watch for cool campus events
- Set up your personal online calendar
- Personalize RSS feeds from your favourite websites
- Customize what you want to see and where you want to see it
- Try to win an iPod! Log in and follow the link in "Campus Announcements" to the online scavenger hunt— fill it out by May 30, 2006 and you could win

Log in to uSource now!
Go to: https://usource.uvic.ca